

HMS Bulletin

September 14, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

School Start Time Adjustments Effective September 20

To build additional time into the student transportation schedule and prioritize getting every student to school on time, school start and end times will shift effective Wednesday, September 20 to those listed below.

Hammond Middle School

Current Time: 8:40am - 3:25pm

NEW TIME (effective 9/20/2023) : 8:30am - 3:15pm

Please use the link below for additional information.

<https://www.hcpss.org/2023-2024/school-start-times/>

Please use link below for updates on bus routes (bus locator)

<https://www.hcpss.org/schools/transportation/>

Schedules

Schedules were posted for our incoming students on [HCPSS Connect](#) starting August 23, 2023. Please note that while these posted schedules are as accurate as possible changes may still occur.

If you have questions regarding your child's schedule, complete the linked [survey](#) and the appropriate staff member will follow up with you to address your concern. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we work to ensure that every student at HMS has an appropriate schedule.

Please note: As we continue to enroll students, we are also continuing to balance class sizes based on new enrollments. With that, schedule change requests may not be possible. Such requests will be placed on a waitlist until all registrations are complete, and will be evaluated based on things such as course availability and class size. For the first couple of weeks our top priority is ensuring every student has a schedule by the first day of classes after enrollment. As such, any request for a schedule change could take until the end of September before we are able to determine the possibility of a change.

Again, we appreciate your patience as we continue to welcome new families to Hammond Middle.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 15: Schools/ Offices Closed (Rosh Hashanah)

September 25: Schools/Offices Closed

September 26: Parent Outreach Event (*topic TBD*)

September 28: Student pictures (see info below)

October 3: MAP Testing - Reading (schoolwide)

October 5: MAP Testing Math - (schoolwide)

October 6: 6th grade field trip to Terrapin Adventures

October 9: Professional Learning Day - School Closed for Students

October 20: Professional Work Day - School Closed for Students

October 27: HMS Flu Clinic

October 31: End of 1st marking period - Schools close 3 hours early

November 8: HMS Hearing/Vision Clinic for all 8th graders and 6th and 7th graders new to the state of Maryland

November 27: (Rescreen) HMS Hearing/Vision Clinic for all 8th graders and 6th and 7th graders new to the state of Maryland

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEL Lessons: (Social Emotional Learning)

This week **6th grade** focused on community building by discussing how to work together in the classroom. **7th grade** focused on active listening and asking follow-up questions to understand each other. **8th grade** focused on relationship building by discussing how our friends made us feel like we belonged at school.

Update Your Family File (70% Completed)

All families must update their emergency contact information annually. While we recognize many of you may not have any changes, you must transition through each screen and click submit at the end for this task to be completed. The completion of the Family File is essential to your student's participation in field trips, dances, and other fun activities throughout the year. We need 100% of our families complete this important task, so visit [HCPSS Connect](#) today and click submit on the final screen!

Once logged in, you will be asked to update or provide the following information:

- Student Information
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical Information
- Arrival/Dismissal Procedures and Transportation Options
- Photo Approval
- Data Confidentiality
- Student Creative Work Approval

- [PTA/PTSA Directory](#)

[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(ENGLISH\)](#)
[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(SPANISH\)](#)
[FAMILY FILE USER GUIDE \(KOREAN\)](#)

REMINDERS

School Supplies

Please know if your child is still in need of essential school supplies they can stop by Student Services. We will be happy to supply them.

Reporting your child's absence

Need to report an absence? Please email your absence notes/questions to: HMSabsence@hcpss.org or send in a signed parent/guardian note. The email should include the student's name, the parent's name, the date(s) or period(s) (if absence is a partial day) of the absence, and the reason for the absence. The email must be received within 5 days of the absence. Requests for changes to attendance submitted after the 5 day deadline may not be honored. Please Note: Absences are unexcused until an email or note is received.

Student Code of Conduct

Every student attended a presentation on the Student Code of Conduct and Howard County Policies. Please review the presentation with your student(s), sign the page, and have students return it to their advisory teacher as soon as possible, they were due on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Student Policies SY 23-24 Family Copy

Policy Signature Page

Be Sure You're Receiving Emails and Texts

HCPSS uses both text messages and email to communicate important and time-sensitive information, including bus delays and emergency closings. Parents/guardians are automatically enrolled for email notification; however all users **must opt in one time to receive texts** by texting "yes" to 67587 from the mobile number listed in their Family File. If you are not receiving HCPSS or school emails/texts, please contact your school's front office.

2023-2024 School Meals

HCPSS no longer will use Nutrislice for school menus or MySchoolBucks for meal payments. **LINQ Connect** is a secure, online portal that allows families to view breakfast and lunch menus, make online meal payments, monitor their child's account, schedule automatic recurring payments, set up low balance alerts, submit a Free and Reduced Meals program application, and more. [Details and information.](#)

Many HCPSS families are eligible to participate in the Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs) program, which provides children with a wide range of benefits. Families are urged to check their eligibility and complete a FARMs application as soon as possible. Families must submit a new application every school year. [Details on the Free and Reduced Meals program](#), including a link to apply, are available online.

[Ho Co Free and Reduced Meals Application.pdf](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Families may find it useful to bookmark the following web-pages where information will be continually updated and posted:

- [HMS Website](#)
- [HMS Twitter](#)
- [HMS Instagram](#)
- [HCPSS Website](#)
- [HCPSS News site](#)
- [HCPSS Help site](#)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit the [Community News and Programs](#) page on the HCPSS website for announcements of upcoming events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

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